

UPDATE

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

This edition of UPDATE summarizes the reports to the membership of the Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospital Center, Inc. as they were presented at the annual meeting of the membership on Thursday, July 25, in the new Hospital Center auditorium.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Leonard P. Pool, President of the Board of Directors, reviewed the progress of activities leading toward the planned September 16 opening and the highlights of what he termed "a very busy year." Among the highlights, he listed the allocation of beds between The Allentown Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospital, the approved complement of 350 beds for the Hospital Center instead of the 460 originally planned, the allocation of services among the three hospitals in order to avoid unnecessary duplication, the change in the role of the Medical Affairs Committee to that of a coordinating body for the three hospitals, the status of financing along with construction and pre-opening costs, the successful introduction of the Centrex telephone system and the approval for the establishment of a Department of Pastoral Care for the Hospital Center.

Mr. Pool called the annual meeting "an historic occasion in that it is the first to be held in the new Joint Facility" and foretold that "next year's meeting will be held in a fully operational hospital." He concluded by noting it would be "impossible to thank the many individuals, committees and groups who are working so hard to make the Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospital Center a reality."

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ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ellwyn D. Spiker told the meeting that "the Hospital Center will open on schedule and within the approved \$24.7 million budget," adding that a net savings of some \$23,000 is projected.

The administrator pointed to "The Big Top Ball" as the most significant event held over the past year, noting that the Women's Auxiliary is turning over to the Hospital Center a sum of \$15,325 representing proceeds of that event for the purchase of a Liebel-Flarsheim Urological Operating Room Table with X-Ray equipment.

He cited as significant agreements reached by the three hospitals to develop a system of coordinated admissions, to allocate clinical services, to implement an emergency services program, to establish a citizens' community hospital advisory committee, to admit the Hospital Center as a full-fledged member of the Allentown and Sacred Heart Computer Corporation, to coordinate a bed-opening and closing plan until all three hospitals reach their agreed upon complements in mid-November.

Spiker then explained the various ways the Hospital Center will differ from the traditional both organizationally and operationally. He also reported that while "we have been most successful to date in our recruiting and staffing program... we presently have 100 unfilled registered and practical nursing positions.

7/29/74

Carl R. Anderson, Chairman, reported that the date for substantial completion is now August 2, with delays caused largely by various recent labor disputes. He said that an on-site inspection on Friday, July 19, indicated that physical construction of the facility is 99% complete, the fiscal contract 95% complete and expressed confidence that the present completion schedule is realistic and will permit the Hospital Center to admit its first patients on September 16 as planned.

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NURSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Florence E. Brown, R.N., Director of Nursing Services, reported she has concentrated on interviewing nurses for the staff and that all administrative appointments have been made with the exception of Assistant Director, Assistant Supervisor for evening and night and a Medical/Surgical Supervisor. She estimated staffing needs at 285 RNs, 85 LPNs, 35 nursing assistants and 35 clerks for a total of 440 and noted that "one-third are appointed, one-third have or are being interviewed, and there remains a need to recruit the final third who are mainly staff for the medical/surgical units."

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DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Donald H. Gaylor, M.D., Chief of Surgery, outlined the present status of the department and its future plans and explained its organization. He anticipated that 11 general surgery residents will be able to work at the three hospitals and explained plans that call for rotation wherever possible. Dr. Gaylor said it is expected that over 8,000 surgical procedures will be performed at the Hospital Center during the first year, including more than 50 open heart procedures as well as numerous other vascular operations.

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DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Dean F. Dimick, M.D., Chief of the Department, said applicants for the department number about 95 and that they represent the vast majority of eligible physicians. He noted that the Divisional and Sectional Chiefs selected "are all highly qualified and have demonstrated the leadership needed at this particular phase." Dr. Dimick explained plans for house staff training and cardiology at the Hospital Center, pointing out that the new facility will be the regional center for care of patients with cardiological diseases.

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Fred D. Fister, M.D., Director of Medical Education, reviewed the accomplishments of the Committee over the past year in their efforts to develop a unified program. Starting in September, there will be 56 house staff members. He also reported that a single brochure has been prepared to advertise the educational programs for the three hospitals and that it will be available July 29.

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PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICAL STAFF

Clifford G. Vernick, M.D. reported that 232 applications have been received from physicians for appointment to the medical staff of the Hospital Center...35 have been approved by the Board of Directors, 81 have been cleared by the Credentials Committee, and 116 are now being reviewed. He said that "participating in the planning of a new hospital such as this one has been an exhilarating experience for many of us and long hours have been spent in our desire to have this hospital fulfill its potential."